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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH SCHOOL CONTROL NOT REQUIRED, WILBUR REPORTS

Secretary of Interior Reveals Plan to Reorganize Present Bureau and Increase Its Efficiency—It Will Act Only As Research and Advisory Body

Washington, Dec. 13—A department of education similar to the other departments of the Federal Government is not required, Secretary of the Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur declares in his annual report, made public Monday.

Local Control Keystone "Local government in education, he continues, "is, in my opinion, the keystone of proper training for citizenship by universal public education. A unique distribution of the taxing power, so that the majority of the taxes have been raised and spent in the local districts and States and only a modest percentage outside of those for war and its after effects has come from the Washington Government, has permitted a wide range of development in the public schools. There have, fortunately, been no national universities. Universities developed after a prolonged period of privately operated and later privately endowed institutions of higher learning. These private institutions have provided a constant stimulation for State institutions of equal rank. The hand of centralized government has been largely kept off the school-teacher and the schoolroom.

Ancient Authorities Were Not Agreed on Date of Christmas

Although from time immemorial the Church has observed the birth of Christ on December 25, ancient authorities are not agreed as to whether the birth of Our Lord really occurred on this day. Clement of Alexandria mentions the opinion of some who placed it on April 20, and of others who believed that it took place May 20. In Egypt, according to Sts. Epiphanius and Cassian, it was generally believed that the birth of Christ was on January 6. In the earliest centuries there was no special feast among the Greeks corresponding to Christmas Day, Our Lord's birth being simply commemorated on Epiphany. Thus, in his Christmas sermon at Antioch, in 386, St. Chrysostom says that "It is not ten years since this day (Christmas on December 25) was clearly known to us, but it has been familiar from the beginning to those who dwell in the West."

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Alps Refuge Blessed By Pyrenees Pastor Paris, Dec. 13—In company with a hundred people from Paris, Bordeaux, Tarbes and Pau, representatives of the Alpine Club, the Touring Club of France and the Railway Company of the South, the pastor of Gabas, in the Pyrenees, mounted 2,070 meters to bless the refuge of l'ombre erected by the Alpine Club on the summit of the Midi d'Ossau. Before the benediction, all the caravan assisted at the celebration of Mass.

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